

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
157 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

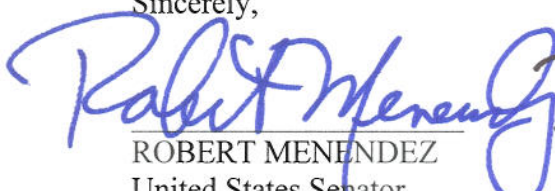
We respectfully request that you include full funding in the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations bill for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program as authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Our country faces an energy crisis that affects national security, our national and global economy, and the planet as a whole. City, county, and state governments are ready to step up and address this problem, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program allows them to do just that.


This new partnership program is exactly what local officials throughout the U.S. have been urging Congress to embrace --an opportunity to expand on the success of local initiatives to increase energy efficiency, expand renewable energy supplies, and facilitate new employment opportunities. Authorized at \$2 billion annually, beginning with the current fiscal year, the law ensures that these resources are results-oriented, with recipients reporting each year on their energy efficiency gains.

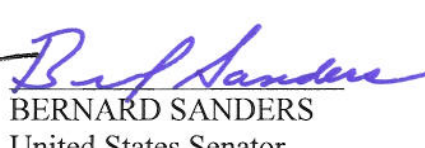
These grants can be used for a variety of purposes, as determined by local officials who know best how to meet the specific energy needs of their communities. Possible uses include: developing and implementing efficient energy and conservation strategies; developing programs to conserve energy used in transportation; updating building codes and inspection procedures; installing renewable energy technology on or in government buildings; replacing traffic signals and street lighting with energy-efficient technology; energy audits; conservation programs; smart-growth planning and zoning; and installing technology designed to capture greenhouse gases.

A strong commitment to this newly-authorized program is critical, especially at a time when national economic growth is slowing and local revenues are declining due to weakening real estate markets. To sustain the significant progress already being made by many localities and to support even broader local action to secure greater energy savings and other gains for the nation, we urge you to provide the fully-authorized level of funding for this program in the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations process and through other available funding opportunities for this program. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator


RICHARD G. LUGAR
United States Senator


BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator

Joe Newbaker

Ken Salazar

Bill Nelson

Dick Durbin

Frank R. Lautenberg

Daniel K. Akaka

Ang Klobuchar

~~Olympia Snowe~~

Cardin

Edward M. Kennedy

John F. Kerry ✓

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Jeff Blumenthal

Max Baucus

Chris Feinstein

Herb Kohl

Norm Coleman

Debbie Stabenow

Th. Wyden

Maria Cantwell

Elizabeth Dole

John 2. Warner

Bob Casey, Jr.

Chris Dodd

Phil Brown

Tom Harkin

Chuck Schumer

Cal

Jon Kyl

Susan Collins

Barack

cc: Chairman Robert Byrd
Ranking Member Thad Cochran

Senators who have signed on:

Robert Menendez
Richard G. Lugar
Bernard Sanders
Debbie Stabenow
John F. Kerry
Edward M. Kennedy
Lisa Murkowski
Russell D. Feingold
Mary L. Landrieu
Joseph I. Lieberman
Jeff Bingaman
Barbara Boxer
Sherrod Brown
Olympia J. Snowe
Richard J. Durbin
Christopher J. Dodd
Frank R. Lautenberg

Barack Obama
Ken Salazar
Tom Harkin
Daniel K. Akaka
John Warner
Elizabeth Dole
Bill Nelson
Norm Coleman
Maria Cantwell
Amy Klobuchar
Herb Kohl
Hillary Rodham Clinton
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Ron Wyden
Carl Levin
Susan M. Collins
Charles E. Schumer

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2008

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
157 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

We are writing to ask for your continued strong support for the renewable electricity research and development programs at the Department of Energy (DOE). Research in these technologies is critical for lowering costs, improving efficiency, and surmounting the barriers they face to widespread deployment in the marketplace. We are very grateful for your past support of these programs, and in particular the additional \$300 million that was provided for DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office in the Fiscal Year 2008 Continuing Resolution, and hope that you will continue this momentum with strong funding levels in the Fiscal Year 2009 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Renewable electricity offers tremendous promise as a way to mitigate some of our most pressing energy challenges. By providing a clean, home-grown, emissions-free source of electricity, renewable technologies help to reduce our dependence on energy imports, improve the security and reliability of the electric grid by promoting distributed generation, and avoid emissions of greenhouse gases and noxious air pollutants. Furthermore, with advances in battery technology and the emergence of a plug-in hybrid market, renewable electricity could make a significant impact in our transportation sector.

The Government Accountability Office has found that federal funding for renewable technology R&D has fallen far below its peak in the late 1970's. Given the escalating concern of most Americans regarding energy independence and climate change, we believe that we need to make significant increases in our level of investment for these programs. Robust funding for these critical R&D initiatives will lead to the greater adoption of renewable energy technologies, resulting in greater energy independence, job growth, and clean reliable energy generation.

The **Geothermal Technologies Program** (GTP) seeks to revitalize geothermal research and tap the full potential of the resource in light of recent reports by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The authorization defines key actions to move technology forward across the spectrum of geothermal resources so that geothermal energy can be a major energy source in the future. We urge you to fully fund the Advanced Geothermal Research Act passed as part of last year's energy bill (Subtitle B) at the authorized \$95 million, as well as the additional \$15 million per year authorization for an expanded resource assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey.

The **Hydropower Technologies Program** supports hydropower resource assessments and environmental impact studies, RD&D of new waterpower technologies, and RD&D funding for conventional hydropower project technologies, primarily for the advanced hydropower turbine program. We urge you to fund the Hydropower Technologies Program at \$54 million in FY 2009.

Separate from the existing Hydropower Technology Program, we urge you to provide \$50 million for basic and applied technology research and development, and demonstration projects, for **Ocean/Marine Renewable Technologies**, such as tidal, wave, and current energy. Research in this field was specifically authorized by Section 633(a) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140). These funds would help to support the development of ocean energy technologies that are on the verge of commercial viability.

The **Solar Energy Technologies Program** has established a target of making solar power cost-competitive with conventional fuels across all market sectors by 2015. Under this scenario, solar would provide hundreds of thousands of high-tech jobs throughout the U.S. and would reduce natural gas demand on the order of billions of cubic feet. However, the current soaring growth of Germany, Japan, and China's solar industry means the United States must make substantial investments if it is to reclaim technology leadership in this critical sector. We urge you to fund the Solar Energy Technologies Program at \$250 million in FY 2009, with \$175 million going towards Photovoltaics, \$50 million for Concentrating Solar Power, and \$25 million for Solar Heating and Lighting.

The **Wind Energy Technologies Program** supports wind energy research and development at the national, state, and local levels. The President's FY 2009 budget requested wind R&D investments of only \$52.5 million. This funding request does not recognize the strong contribution that wind energy is making – and can make – to producing clean energy, new jobs, and significant reductions in global warming pollution. We urge you to fund the Wind Energy Technologies Program at \$89 million in FY 2009.

These programs represent critical investments for our nation's energy future, and we respectfully urge you to fund them at robust levels. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator

John F. Kennedy

Barack Obama

Maria Corbucci

Lyman Collins

Ed Kennedy

Ken Salazar

Chris

Jonah

Will

Daniel K. Akaka

Barry

SENATORS WHO HAVE SIGNED ON:

JOHN F. KERRY

BERNARD SANDERS

GORDON H. SMITH

JEFF BINGAMAN

JOSEPH L. LIEBERMAN

MARIA CANTWELL

EDWARD M. KENNEDY

SUSAN M. COLLINS

DANIEL K. AKAKA

KEN SALAZAR

BARBARA BOXER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2008

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan, Chairman
The Honorable Pete V. Domenici, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dorgan and Ranking Member Domenici:

We request your support for key energy efficiency programs at the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2009, including the Weatherization Assistance Program, the State Energy Program, energy efficiency deployment programs, the Equipment Standards and Analysis Program, the Building Program, the Industrial Technologies Program, the Federal Energy Management Program, and the Distributed Energy Program. In addition, we request your support for funding for the Energy Information Administration, which provides the necessary information energy markets need to operate effectively.

Our nation faces significant challenges as we strive to ensure our energy security, reduce the economic risks of high energy prices, and address global climate change. Energy efficiency is the nation's greatest energy resource. We now save more energy each year from energy efficiency than we get from any single energy source, including oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear power. As oil prices have broken records -- over \$109/barrel -- and natural gas prices have increased 24 percent since January 1, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that improve technologies for our homes, our businesses, and our vehicles are even more critical.

The **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** helps low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled by improving the energy efficiency of low-income housing. We urge you to fund WAP at no less than \$300 million in FY 2009. Each year the program has exceeded its target and weatherized approximately 100,000 homes. Increased funding would allow WAP to expand quickly to reduce energy usage by approximately 25 percent in each assisted home. This represents savings that families can use to pay for other necessities, while reducing the nation's energy demand by the equivalent of 18 million barrels of oil every year.

The **State Energy Program (SEP)** improves the energy efficiency of schools, hospitals, small businesses, farms, homes and industries. In addition, state energy offices handle the crucial energy emergency preparedness functions for states, including planning for potential terrorist attacks. We urge you to fund SEP at no less than \$75 million for the base program in FY 2009 to enable states to meet the demands of increased security and to continue and expand their invaluable work to promote energy efficiency programs for all Americans. SEP provides significant energy savings -- for every dollar invested in the program \$7.22 is saved in energy costs (based on 2002 date, when energy prices were lower). SEP leverages \$10.71 in non-federal funding for every federal dollar spent and provides hundreds of millions of dollars in direct energy cost savings annually.

Within the **Building Technologies program** we urge you to fund the Commercial Buildings initiative at no less than the \$20 million authorized by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), in order to enable this important effort to reach the ambitious goal of zero energy new commercial buildings in the United States by the year 2030. **Energy efficiency deployment programs including Rebuild America, Building Codes training and assistance and DOE ENERGY STAR** provide critical support for commercializing energy-efficiency technologies and increasing their use,

Fiscal Year 2009 - Energy Efficiency Programs
Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
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often through matching grants to states. We urge you to provide at least the funding levels noted below for each of the following programs in FY 2009: Rebuild America (\$5 million), Building Energy Codes (\$10 million), and DOE Energy Star (\$10 million). Funding for the Vehicle Technologies Deployment program (formerly Clean Cities) should be at funded at the FY08 level of \$12.5 million. In addition, funding should be provided for the public information and media campaigns on energy efficiency authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT 2005) and EISA.

The Equipment Standards and Analysis Program has enabled huge energy savings despite its small cost by setting appliance standards and test procedures. As of 2000, appliance standards had already reduced U.S. electricity use by an estimated 2.5 percent (88 billion kWh/year) and reduced peak power demand by approximately 21,000 MW. This is projected to grow to 6.9 percent by 2010. But the program has a backlog of standards to work on, with additional requirements stemming from EPACT 2005 and EISA. We urge you to provide at least the FY 2008 level of \$22 million in FY 2009.

The Industrial Technologies Program partners with industry and the states to fund research, technology development, and deployment that enhance energy efficiency and productivity. Industry consumes 36 percent of energy used in the United States. Through the development and use of more efficient technologies, manufacturers can increase productivity and competitiveness while reducing their impact on the environment. We urge you to fund this program at no less than \$64.4 million – level funding – in FY 2009, including \$2.4 million for the inventions and innovations program and to provide funding for the Energy Intensive Industries program authorized by EISA.

The Federal Energy Management Program has helped cut federal building energy waste by 24 percent from 1985-2001 – a reduction that now saves federal taxpayers roughly \$1 billion each year in reduced energy costs. But funding has decreased for this program, even though large savings remain untapped, and EPACT 2005 and EISA impose expanded responsibilities on the program. We urge you to provide this program with at least the President's request of \$22 million in FY 2009, in addition to any funds the department is seeking for federal fleets and DOE infrastructure.

The Distributed Energy Program helps increase the use of distributed generation technologies that protect air quality and deliver much-needed power without further taxing the overstretched transmission and distribution system. This program funds research and development of new efficient distributed energy technologies, including combined heat and power initiatives, while encouraging their deployment. We urge you to fund this program at no less than \$60 million in FY 2009. As recent analyses have shown, accelerated deployment of highly efficient combined heat and power technologies can help alleviate both supply and demand pressures in tight natural gas and oil markets.

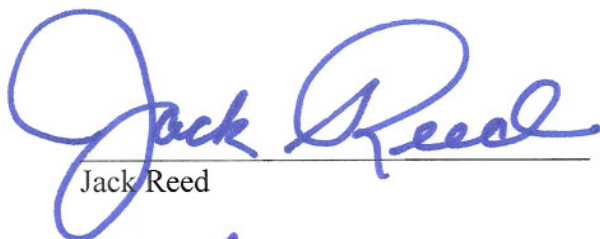
The Energy Information Administration (EIA) plays a critical role in providing unbiased data to Congress, states, private businesses, and the public so they may understand and respond to changes and fluctuations in the energy markets and determine long-term capital investments in energy infrastructure. Congress and state officials need this data to prepare for and respond to local and regional energy emergencies, track patterns of energy consumption and production and develop effective energy policies. As energy price volatility becomes increasingly problematic, this timely data becomes even more critical to help calm markets. We urge you to fund the EIA at \$120.6 million – \$10 million above the President's requested level – for FY 2009.

Fiscal Year 2009 - Energy Efficiency Programs
Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
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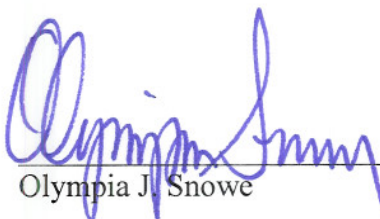
We recognize that the subcommittee will face difficult decisions but we believe increased investment in these programs will deliver substantial economic, security, and environmental returns for the entire nation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

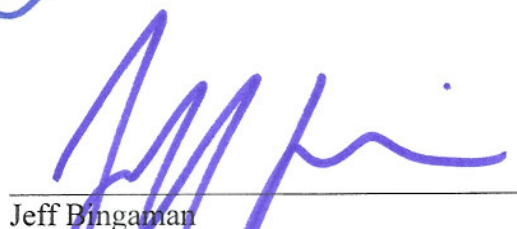
Sincerely,



Jack Reed



Olympia J. Snowe



Jeff Bingaman



Susan M. Collins



Robert Menendez



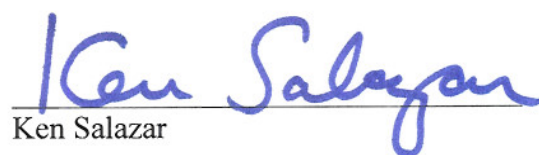
Bernard Sanders



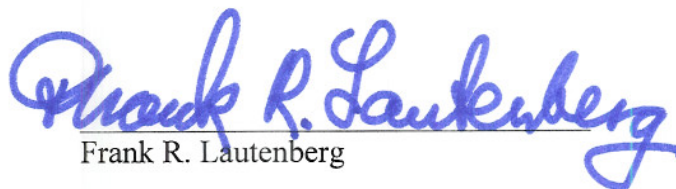
Ron Wyden



Maria Cantwell

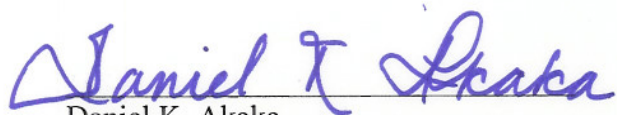



Ken Salazar




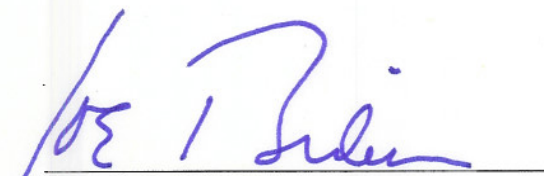
Frank R. Lautenberg


Fiscal Year 2009 - Energy Efficiency Programs
Senate Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee
Page 4

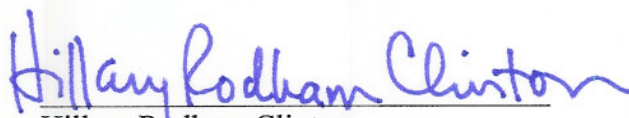

Daniel K. Akaka

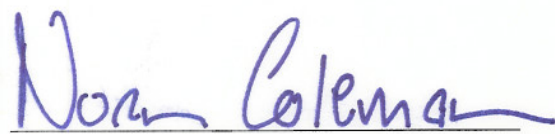

Jon Tester

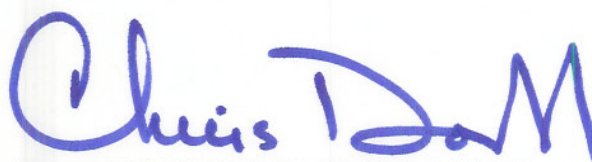

Debbie Stabenow

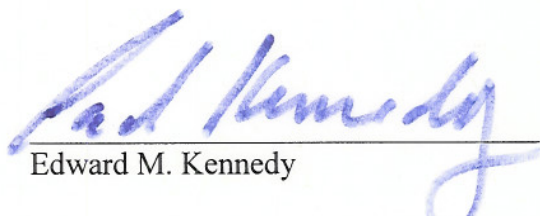

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

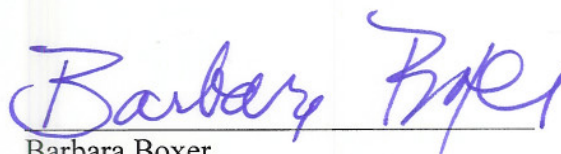

Gordon H. Smith

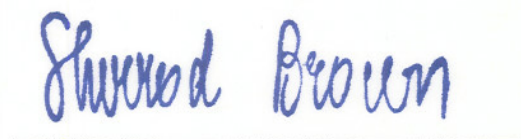

Hillary Rodham Clinton

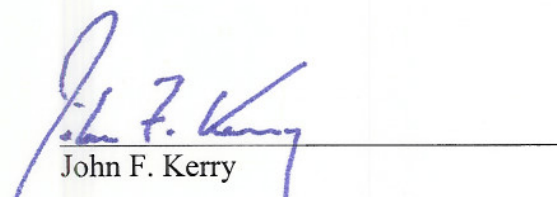

Norm Coleman

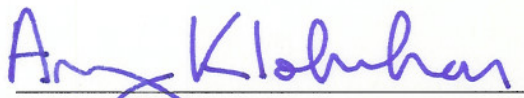

Christopher J. Dodd

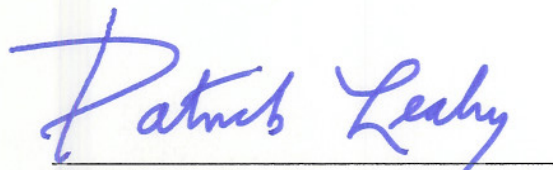

Edward M. Kennedy

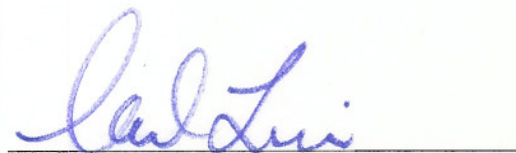

Barbara Boxer

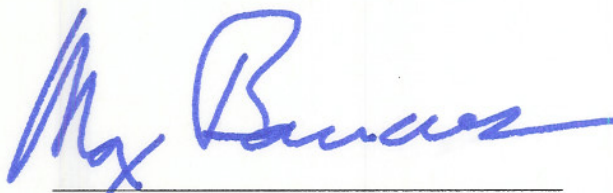

Sherrod Brown



John F. Kerry

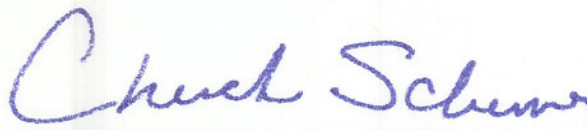

Amy Klobuchar



Patrick J. Leahy

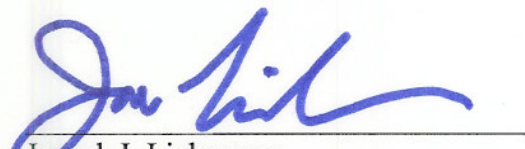

Carl Levin

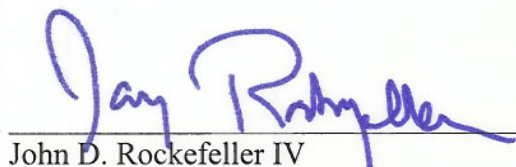

Max Baucus

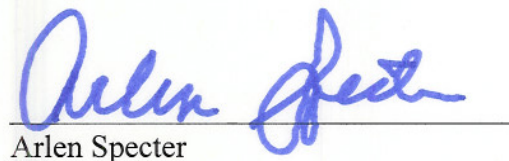

Sheldon Whitehouse

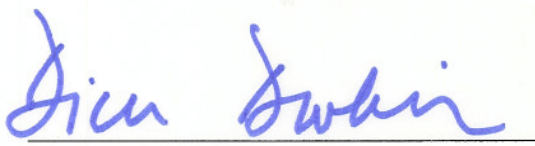

Charles E. Schumer

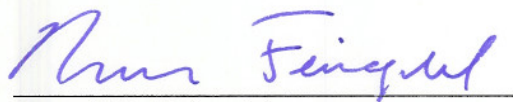

Richard G. Lugar

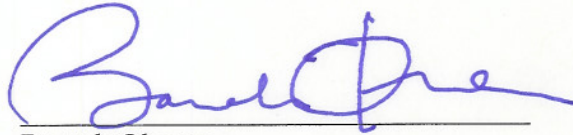

Joseph I. Lieberman


John D. Rockefeller IV

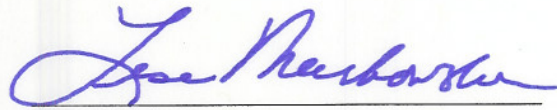

Arlen Specter


Richard J. Durbin

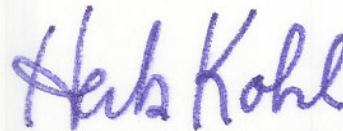

Russell D. Feingold



Barack Obama



Lisa Murkowski



Herb Kohl
